NUMB. CXXX.

The SPECTATOR.

——Semperque recentes
Convectare juvat prædas, & vivere rapto. Virg.

Monday, July 30. 1711.

AS I was Yesterday riding out in the Fields with my Friend Sir ROGER, we saw at a little Distance from us a Troop of Gypsies. Upon the first Discovery of them, my Friend was in some Doubt whether he should not exert the Justice of the Peace upon such a Band of Female Vagrants; but not having his Clerk with him, who is a necessary Counsellour on these Occasions, and fearing that his Poultry might fare the worse for it, he let the Thought drop: But at the same time gave me a particular Account of the Mischiefs they do in the Country, in stealing People's Goods and spoiling their Servants. If a stray Piece of Linnen hangs upon an Hedge, says Sir ROGER, they are sure to have it; if a Hog loses his Way in the Fields, it is ten to one but he becomes their Prey; our Geese cannot live in Peace for them; if a Man prosecutes them with Severity, his Hen-roost is sure to pay for it: They generally infest some Parts about this Time of the Year, and set the Heads of our Servant-Maids so much upon Husbands, that we do not expect to have any Business done, as it should be, whilst they are in the Country. I have an honest Dairy-Maid that crosses her Hands with a Piece of Silver every Summer, and never fails being promised the handsomest young Fellow in the Parish for her Pains. Your Friend the Butler has been Fool enough to be bewitched by them; and though he is sure to lose a Knife, a Fork, or a Spoon every Time his Fortune is told him, generally shuts himself up in the Pantry with an old Gypsie for above Half an Hour once in a Twelve-month. Sweet-hearts are the Bane they live upon, which they bestow very plentifully upon all those that apply themselves to them. You see now and then some handsome young Fellow among them: The Sluts have often very fine Teeth and black Eyes.

The Knight, observing that I listned with great Attention to his Account of a People who were so entirely new to me, told me, That if I would they should tell us our Fortunes: As I was very well pleased with the Knight's Proposal, we rid up and communicated our Hands to them. A *Cassandra* of the Crew, after having examined my Lines very diligently, told me, That I loved a pretty Maid in a Corner, that I was a good Woman's Man, with some other Particulars which I do not think proper to relate. My Friend Sir ROGER alighted from his Horse, and exposing his Palm to two or three that stood by him, they crumpled it into all Shapes, and diligently scanned every Wrinkle that could be made in it; when one of them that was older and more sun-burnt than the rest, told him, That he had a Widow in his Line of Life: Upon which the Knight cryed, Go, go you are an idle Baggage; and at the same Time smiled upon me. The Gypsie finding he was not displeased in his Heart, told him, after a further Enquiry into his Hand, that his True-love was constant, and that she should dream of him to Night. My old Friend cryed pish, and bid her go on. The Gypsie told him that he was a Batchelour, but would not be so long; and that he was dearer to some Body than he thought: The Knight still repeated, She was an idle Baggage, and bid her go on. Ah Master, says the Gypsie, that roguish Lear of yours makes a pretty Woman's Heart ake; you ha'n't that Simper about the Mouth for nothing—— The uncouth Gibberish with which all this was uttered, like the Darkness of an Oracle, made us the more attentive to it. To be short, the Knight left the Money with her that he had crossed her Hand with, and got up again on his Horse.

As we were riding away, Sir ROGER told me, that he knew several sensible People who believ'd these Gypsies now and then foretold very strange things; and for Half an Hour together appeared more jocund than ordinary. In the Height of his good Humour, meeting a common Beggar upon the Road that was no Conjuror, as he went to relieve him

him, he found that his Pocket was pickt: That being a Kind of Palmistry at which this Race of Vermin are very dexterous.

I might here entertain my Reader with historical Remarks on this idle profligate People, that infest all the Countries of *Europe*, and live in the Midst of Governments in a kind of Commonwealth by themselves. But instead of entering into Observations of this Nature, I shall fill the remaining Part of my Paper with a Story that is still fresh in *Holland*, and was printed in one of our Monthly Accounts about twenty Years ago. 'As 'the *Trekschuyt*, or Hackney-boat, which carries 'Passengers from *Leiden* to *Amsterdam* was putting off, 'a Boy running along the Sides of the Canal, desir'd 'to be taken in; which the Master of the Boat refused 'because the Lad had not quite Money enough to pay 'the usual Fair. An eminent Merchant being pleased 'with the Looks of the Boy, and secretly touched 'with Compassion towards him, paid the Money 'for him, and ordered him to be taken on board. 'Upon talking with him afterwards he found that 'he could speak readily in three or four Languages, 'and learned upon further Examination that he had 'been stolen away when he was a Child by a Gypsy, and had rambled ever since with a Gang of 'those Strolers up and down several Parts of *Europe*. It happened that the Merchant, whose 'Heart seems to have inclined towards the Boy by 'a secret kind of Instinct, had himself lost a Child 'some Years before. The Parents, after a long 'search for him, gave him for drowned in one of 'the Canals with which that Country abounds; 'and the Mother was so afflicted at the Loss of a 'fine Boy, who was her only Son, that she died 'for Grief of it. Upon laying together all Particulars, and examining the several Moles and 'Marks which the Mother used to describe the 'Child by when he was first missing, the Boy proved to be the Son of the Merchant, whose Heart 'had so unaccountably melted at the Sight of 'him. The Lad was very well pleased to find a 'Father, that was so rich, and likely to leave 'him a good Estate; the Father, on the other 'Hand, was not a little delighted to see a 'Son return to him, whom he had given for 'lost, with such a Strength of Constitution, Sharpness of Understanding, and Skill in Languages. Here the printed Story leaves off, but if I may give Credit to Reports, our Linguist having received such extraordinary Rudiments towards a good Education, was afterwards trained up in every thing that becomes a Gentleman, wearing off by little and little all the vicious Habits and Practices that he had been used to in the Course of his Peregrinations: Nay it is said, that he has since been employed in foreign Courts upon national Business with great Reputation to himself and Honour to his Country, and that he has visited several Courts as a publick Minister, in which he formerly wandered as a Gypsy.

ERRATA.

In Spectator CXXVII, *Col. L.* 13, *for* walking *read* waddling. *In* Spectator CXXVIII, *C.* 3, *L.* 7, *for* Gentlemen *read* Gentleman. *In* Spectator CXXIX, *C.* 3, *L.* 21, *dele* whole.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

There is to be Sold at very low Rates at Mr. Everell's Watch-maker, at the Unicorn and Dyal up one Pair of Stairs near Strand-Bridge, all sorts of Muslin Cravats and Hollands, and Cambricks for Handkerchiefs; being the Goods of several Persons that fail'd. The Cravats are put up 3 in a Paper, and the Price mark'd upon each Parcel.

This Day is publish'd,

††† A View of the Coast, Countries, and Islands within the Limits of the South-Sea Company. Containing an Account of the Discoveries, Settlements, Progress, and present State: Together with the Bays, Ports, Harbours, Rivers, &c. The various Winds and Soundings; the Product, People, Manufactures, Trade and Riches of the several Places, from the River Aranoca to Terra del Fuego; and from thence through the South-Sea to the farthest Bounds of the late Act of Parliament. To which is added an Account of the former Projects in England for a Settlement, and the Accomplishment of the last in the establishing the New Company; with some useful Observations on the several Voyages that have been hitherto publish'd. The whole collected from the best Authors, as well Manuscripts as printed. A List of the Commissioner's Names; with a general Map, and particular Draughts of the most important Places. By Herman Moll, Geographer. Price bound in Sheep 3s. 6d. in Calf 4s. Printed for John Morphew near Stationer's Hall.

R. Stoughton, Apothecary, in Southwak, having some Time since, by Order of a Merchant, sent 50 Dozen of his Cordial Elixir to Sweden, has lately receiv'd Advice, that Numbers of People finding it a great Preserver of Health, drink it every Morning: And further to assure it is so, hath a Certificate from thence, That (to the Person's best Knowledge and Observation) not one who took it hath had the Disease; and many are of Opinion it hath been of great Use in stopping the Progress of it. He hath also a Certificate from on board a Ship at Jamaica, That after 6 or 7 of the Men died in 24 Hours of a malignant Distemper, the Captain himself (fearing he should lose all his Men) gave the rest, who were sick'd, plentifully of this Elixir (which for many Years he took with him) and by God's Blessing on it saved every Man after. He is not only willing, but desirous this may be publish'd for the Good of others. Few now will go to Sea or travel without it. The Certificates themselves any Gentleman may see if they please. ☞ A large Box is just now ordered again for Sweden.

This Christal Cosmetick approv'd of by the worth Dr. PAUL CHAMBERLAINE, viz. By washing Morning or ning cures all red Faces proceeding from what Cause soever, it off all Morphews, Pimples and Freckles, it's of a soft N cleansing and adorning the Face and Hands of both Sexes in a beautiful Manner, and may be used with as much Safety as Milk, ving in it no Mercury (so frequently made use of) or any other that may be prejudicial to the Body, being the best of this extant. Price of the larger Bottle 6s. the lesser 3 s. Sold at craft's over-against the Royal-Exchange, Cornhill; Mr. Jack Corner of Wood-street, Cheapside, formerly sold at the Co now removed to the Seven-Stars under St. Dunstan's Church, street; Mr. Bracknock's at the upper End of St. James's-Street, cadilly. Note, to prevent Counterfeits, each single Bottle with rections is tied and sealed with this Coat of Arms, being a Fess a Lion Rampant on a Canton.

Sir *Theodore Mayern*'s (Physitian to King Charles Opiate for the Teeth, viz. Makes them clean and white as Ivory, tho' never so black or rotten, fastneth and preserveth them from Tooth-ach, being a most excellent thing for preventing and the Scurvy, having nothing in it destructive to the Fibres, fretting or wearing the Gums away, as is the Nature of all Pow About the Quantity of a large Pea, rubbed hard only upon the every Morning, washing it off with clean Water, until you have one of the largest Boxes, which will be sufficient unless greatly bled with the Scurvy, and then may use more as Occasion It having been experienc'd by several Persons of Quality to be only thing extant. Price of the largest Box 2 s. 6 d. the lesser 1 s. 3 d. Also his Imperial Snuff, each Paper 6 d. Sold at Mr. G retts under the Royal Exchange, at John's Coffee-house in Swithin's Ally near the Exchange, at the Angel in Bull-Ally near Lothbury-street, at Mr. Jackson's the Corner of Wood-street Cheapside, at Mr. Rogers the North-End of St. Paul's Church-yard, at the Rose and Crown under St. Dunstan's Church Fleet-street, at the Black Boy in New-Exchange Strand, at Will's Coffee-house under Somerset-House Gateway, and at Oldman's Coffee-house near Charing-Cross.

Reflections on Ridicule; or, what it is that makes a Man ridiculous, and the Means to avoid it: Wherein are represented, the different Manners and Characters of Persons of the present Age: In 2 Vol. 8vo. Printed for D. Midwinter at the Three Crowns in St. Paul's Church yard.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in; as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.